

The Official Newsletter of the Commodore Users Group of Springfield



Clipper

October 1993



The next CUGOS meeting is
October 9th, 1993, the House of
Prayer, 2850 N. Park Ave. at 10 am

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PRESIDENTS CORNER

HI!! How you doing? I guess
summer is over & we are into the
fall of the year.

Gee Whiz, what to do??

SIG.MEETING Had a great time at
Jason Whitener; SIG.MEETING, for the
BASIC BEGINNER, as it started out.
We also covered a lot of other
topics to. (programs,
telecommunications, hardware
problems, etc..)

JASON at first had a hard time
getting the meetings off the ground,
first one thing then another. But it
was well worth the effort, it seemed
everyone that came learned
something.

NEWSLETTER -WHOA!! Look at that!
GARRY PAASCH worked overtime on the
last newsletter. It was impressive
with all the graphics, type &
spacing. All the section headers
were in place. It looked like a real
magazine. Garry has mentioned to me
that, all the newsletter needs now
to make it look & read the best it
can be -IS YOUR ARTICLES-of any
type, topic or hardware problems &
solutions...

UPGRADE NOTICE -Jon Wardlow,
will head the upgrade (8/9) switch
installation on your 1541 drive if
you want one, bring in your drive &
the switch. This will allow you to
run more than one drive with out all
the hassle of having to either soft
wire (through software) or to open
it up & hard wire it committing it
to just one specific drive, this
will allow your system to be much
more versatile, enabling it to cater
to your specific needs lets it be
more productive.

CAUTION- Jon will be opening up



OCTOBER Calendar Events



- 9 - CUGOS Meeting (10am at House
of Prayer, 2850 N. Park, in Gym, see
map - back page)
- 12 - Columbus Day
- 19 - Officers & Board of Directors
Meeting
- 16 - National Boss Day
- 16 - Sweetest Day? 27 - Clipper
Newsletter Article Deadlsne
- 31 - Daylight Savings Time (set
clocks back!)
- 31 - Halloween

The CUGOS Meeting meets at 10 am the
2nd Saturday at the House of Prayer,
2850 N. Park Ave.



the drive, snipping a wire that tells the computer what drive # it is (in layman terms), he will then wire the switch, drill a hole in the front of the drive cover to mount the switch and have it closed back up in less than 15 minutes or so. It is a simple operation I've done mine with no problems as of yet, but I do need to remind everyone "it is your drive !!" Not that I doubt Jon's ability, I just thought I would mention this to head off any hard feelings, before there is any??

T-SHIRTS -We still have T-SHIRTS available. Due to the response I ordered more, if you would like to be a part of the club !, HELP ADVERTISE!! CUGOS depends on MEMBERS to spread the word about the club. Get one at this meeting, I have sizes large & X large. SHIRTS \$10.00 & CAPS \$5.00.

DO YOUR PART, HELP SUPPORT YOUR CUGOS TODAY!!!

DOOR PRIZE -Don't forget to enter your name at the door. The door prize winner will receive 1 free rental, from the commercial library, of the disk of there choice...Only catch is that you have to ENTER in order to WIN..

FUTURE ATTRACTIONS -LARRY FETTER & JASON WHITENER -Are working on a VCR tape, for the basic BBS beginner. You will be able to learn the basics of the BBS, how to get on line, what to expect to see, how to move around, etc.. The big benefit you will be able to do it from your easy chair, or if your a step or two ahead you would be able to hook the VCR to the back of your computer, & view it from your monitor. Talking about a great way to demo! The thing that excites me so much about it is that it all came from IDEAS, at the MEETINGS!! This is what I have been talking about all along, if you don't understand something ask, chances are you are not the only one. This project will take some doing, with both Larry & Jason already working hard on there own post (Larry working at the BBS & Jason frantically trying to rebuild the Educator function). I am positive that it will be definitely worth the wait..

OLDIES REVIEW -I am going to put in a NEW section of the Newsletter, called the "OLDIES REVIEW", I plan to take from the earliest 64 library releases, in Volume #1 & work my way through, in sequence, as they were released, also from the 128 library. This undertaking will take a little while but I think it will be a worthwhile project. I feel it will serve two purposes.

#1) To put the information out in front of members that either forgot or didn't know, it was there.

#2) To make hard copy folders, of releases, in sequence. This will also make it easier to look at a program in the 64/128 Library & determine if the name of a program or disk, is actually what it implies. Sometimes (for me anyway??) the DCMR is a great way to look up programs/disks to see if its in the library, but it kinda sorta leaves you less than happy when you get the disk home, load it up & see that it isn't even close to what you were expecting. This isn't meant to replace the DCMR, only to supplement it..

ANYWAYS, hope to see you at the meeting!! Come on out & see the demos, chat with the other members & look over the 3 libraries, to find that special program you have been looking for. above all, don't forget about the DONUTS & COFFEE !!! (we won't be able to have the hamburgers & hot dog's this meeting the MASTER CHEF-JIM ORR will be out of town.

Sincerely,
Ernie Trisler



Carabou BASIC Tutorial

Several months ago, I contacted a man from northern Washington state about his need for some demo-type programs that could be released from a local disk that he put together for his Commodore club. Well, I sent him several disks which he appreciated very much. Well, he sent me a package a month or so later, and left a note telling me that he had several different

installations of a intro to basic programming column that had run in a Canadian based club newsletter, and he told me I could reprint them as long as I cited the author and from where they originated.

They are basically a 10 or 12 installments of a commodore basic intro. They will be run 1 per month until we run out of issues. They are being published "as-is" with little to no editorial changes. If you have any problems or questions, just post them on the board, write to the newsletter editor, or contact one of the officers and we'll try and figure out your problem.

Sincerely,
Jason Whitener



Minutes Cugo's Meeting September 11, 1993

The regular monthly meeting was held on Saturday September 11, 1993
-- --- 10:00 A.M.... At 2850 N. Park.

President Ernie Trisler greeted everyone and welcomed visitors. He then passed out CUGOS new Tee Shirts to the members who had placed orders. Ernie thanked all who helped make CUGOS annual picnic a success. Especially the cooks & arrangers. Everyone commented on how much they enjoyed the food.

Cugos member Jon Wardlow volunteered to convert 1541 disk drive at our October 9th meeting, so you can just flip a switch to use disk drive as 8 or 9. He said he would do this free to CUGOS members providing they purchase the little SPST switch and bring it in with your disk drives in October. Ernie ask that those who failed to get their CUGOS Tee Shirts on the first order, may contact Ernie, Bill or Jim to get in on the next order. Remember Tee Shirts \$10.00 or Caps \$5.00

Each officer gave brief reports & comments. Demos followed by Tony Edwards & Jason Whitener. The following became CUGOS members at this meeting. Sue Wilbur, Buffalo

MO -- Geneva Blades, Springfield,
MO -- Jack White/Clyde Copeland,
Springfield, MO -- Dave & Delores
Metcalf of Cedar Creek MO

After more friendly visiting the meeting closed at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Patrick, Secretary



HELP!!!

HI! glad I was able to meet & talk to you at the last meet. Had a great turn out, got so busy chatting almost forgot about the meeting???

We have a lot going on, in the club right now, if you happen to have a spare moment open in your schedule, I would appreciate a helping hand. CUGOS, is a users group, so if you know a little bit (or a lot) SHARE!! There are a lot of new users in the club right now, they are in the same position we all were in when we first started.

remember?? You don't have to be Mr. Programmer or know all there is to know about the 64/128. A lot of the time, all that is needed to tie things all together, is that one little piece of info. Whenever you see a bewildered face or overhear a question, don't hesitate to offer your help. They maybe already know about your helpful tip, but then again maybe they don't!!

Sincerely
Ernie Trisler



DIGITAL DEMENSION UPDATE

I was going to right this a month ago but the time got away from me to quickly, I just wanted to inform the club members about the BBS that the club pays for that I run at my house.

Hi my name is "Larry Fetters II" you probably voted for me back in June of this year in the election for the BBS and in the election I made some promises about changing the board, if you voted for me, I hope I havent dissappointed anyone!!!

I did make a lot of prommises and yes I stuck to them..it was a uphill battle but thanks to a couple of friends (CUGOS MEMBERS) I finally got the BBS up and running on the 64. It seemed like every thing I tried was useless I just could not find the software for the board that worked properly. It took about 2 1/2 months of programming, debugging, and four cases of Diet COKE before the board was on line..

I finally settled with a complementry copy of UCBSBS v1.0. its a full color BBS. Has a lot of options, 8 diffrent subboards, private mail send, upload/download ect. There are currently 25 user's on the board at this minute..

What Im tring to say here people..is the BBS is lacking USER'S..at one time (according to past records) Digital Deminsion had over 150 valadated user's..

Please if you are a CUGOS member and have a modem you can call the board anytime you like 24hrs a day 7 days a week. And chat with me, right someone a note, request some software to download, thats in the library or download what is already on the board, anything from utilities, games ,demo's ,picture's GEOS related stuff and even 128 prgs.

I will even incourage long distance user's to call too because you may just find someone or something you are interested in to make the long distance charge worth it!!

Im currently working on an updated version, so the board will be even be better in the months to come.

We are "JASON WHITNER" and I are going to HOUSTON TEXAS for a get together with some 64 user's to learn some new things. We hope to bring back some interesting software..

I better sign off before I bore you to death, but before I go please if you have'nt called DD in a while, do, I promise it will be worth the effort. The new number is (866-3979) untill next month..bye

LARRY E FETTERS



SYSOP OF DIGITAL DIMENSION

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Bulletin board - Digital Dimensions - 866-3979. Sysop Larry Fetters is changing the look & feel of the board. CUGOS is still looking for different software & will try out several before we settle on one. Get online & check it out, offer your suggestions, on how it looks & feels. The BBS is a big part of CUGOS it reflects how we look & operate to the rest of the WORLD. It takes up massive amount of time from the sysop & co-sysop Jason Whitener, there only reward for a job well done, a "pat on the back", so to speak is the use & feed back from the users. We are getting more & more people signed on each day, but not much else is going on. There are a ton of programs 64 & 128, Games help files & subboards that fits your every need, (Larry will add a new one if you ask, on about any subject).

MODEM-hip hip hooray!! We are finally upgrading the BBS to 2400 baud modem. This should speed things along nicely! It will cut send/receive transmissions time to half if you can match it ?? Otherwise it will basically look the same.

JASON WHITENER-Has done it again! He has discovered, yet another way of how to get online faster yet. Jason has plans & docs. of a modem cable/connector (interface), that would enable you to connect virtually any modem to your commodore. We have not as of yet thoroughly tested it yet however, but it certainly looks & sounds like it would do the trick. If you are interested get with Jason, he will have the docs. at the meeting, he would also be able to answer all of your questions.

Ernie Trisler
home #869-

9345





Beginners SIG Meetings

Well, after quite a bit of consideration, I have come to a decision.

I am going to try and have Beginner SIG meetings the 2nd Sunday of every month at my apartment. This will be the day after the club meeting. I know this may be inconvenient for many, but this is the best available time for me, and since there are no others currently running, I feel like if you want to make it bad enough you'll make the time. I might sound a bit overbearing, but I finally figured out I can't make anybody come, they have to make the effort to get themselves here.

Although this a beginner sig meeting, about any topic may be addressed. If other groups grow from this and want to start their own groups, more power to them. But just like everything, it has to start somewhere.

The last meeting was really great. We talked about basic computer commands, telecommunications, GEOS, printer set-up, expander cartridges and many other topics. We had just a few people, but everyone seemed to have gotten quite a bit from it.

At the next meeting talk to some of the people that were at the last meeting. They were: Gene Rhodes, Frank Thompson, Larry Feters, Tony & Suzi Edwards, Ernie Trisler and me, Jason Whitener. My apartment is small, but for now it seems to be just the right size.

Jason Whitener



TREASURER POSITION OPEN

JIM ORR-CUGOS treasurer, has decided to leave the club. Due to so many other commitments, that require a lot of his attention. He felt that, the TREASURERS position would take more time then he would be able

to offer it, & to do the exceptional job that he has shown in the past. JIM ORR will be missed, his "shoes" will be hard to fill, JIM was always the main person that I could consistently count on, to "dot the I's & cross the T's".

Bette Edwards has graciously volunteered to fill the position for now. Thanks BETTE!

Ernie Trisler



ITEMS FOR SALE

Here's your chance to sale your computer items in the Clipper!

The club has disks for sale!

5 & 1/4" disks at .40 cents each
& 3 & 1/2" disks at .60 cents each.

Check with the secretary (Bill Patrick) for getting these disks.



PRINTER HELP!!



I have recently purchased a "STAR NX-1000 C RAINBOW" PRINTER. It works great, prints beautiful. I unfortunately did not get a book with it, I have pretty much figured out everything except how to make it print in color?? It is commodore ready so the interface isn't a problem. If there is anyone out there that can tell me what the dip switches should be set on please don't hesitate to call, smoke signals or something, I'm desperate. Better yet if you would let me borrow the book for a day or two, I would be eternally grateful. THANKS in advance for your help!!

Ernie Trisler DD#4
home #869-9345



Beginners Video's

Recently in an officers meeting, the idea was brought up that we should produce a video for telecommunications, so club members could have a source of information right at their finger tips whenever they had problems or needed a quick review. We have decided to do a telecommunications video first.

On the video we will go over setting up a terminal program, calling the club board, calling the library, and many other interesting applications. Also after we have produced a video we will have copies for rent from the club library. We felt we should start with telecommunications, since many are just starting out and would like to know about this area. In this way, there is no need for worrying if you're bothering another person, you can just rewind and watch and learn.

The video should have different titles built into it, so instead of narration there will be a screen every so often to explain how the functions are performed.

If the video project works out, we may produce other videos to help in the learning process.

Jason Whitener



NEWSFLASH!!NEWSFLASH!!NEWSFLASH!!

Well this is a Commodore newsflash update.

As many of you know, Commodore has finally given us the big 'heave ho', so to speak. They have finally released that they have stopped US Commodore 64 production and have no plans for further support. GREAT!!!, we haven't had much support to speak of from them in the last several years, unless you count the trade-in where you could get an Amiga 500 for a trade in of a C64 or C128. Not what I would call support.

Well, now is the time where we really find out who loves their

machine and who just got on the boat with the rest of us.

Although a company abandoning a machine seems to paint a bleak picture, that's really not the case. There are several outlets for Commodore creative energies. Companies such as CMD (Creative Micro Designs), with their great harddrives, ram expanders and software, prove the vitality and endurance of the "game player" C64. There are many other small companies producing hardware for the Commodore along with stores that refurbish hardware and sell replacement parts.

Also there are several magazines now being published with the Commodore user in mind. One of them is dieHard, a paper magazine, from the title you can guess the approach they are taking. They have many things to offer including type-in programs, reviews, Q&A sections, and classified ads. They seem to be an up and coming source for Commodore support. Another source is Loadstar. It's a disk based magazine that puts out 2 disks per month. They are chock full of great ideas, information and programs. Typically they will have 4 or 5 different game programs, a couple of utilities, some geos support programs, etc. Basically something for everyone. They also publish a 128 version of Loadstar.

These are only a couple of examples of available information for Commodore users.

Another last minute news bulletin...



The Grapevine group, a Commodore hardware and software wholesaler, has acquired an interesting new computer. It's a Commodore 65. When this system was first introduced it was to revolutionize the Commodore computer industry. It has a built in 3 1/2 inch disk drive, has great graphics and sound capabilities and is supposed to be 80% C64 compatible.

Well, Commodore never came out with them. As usual they did a lot of

hype and showed them around, then canned the project. They were thought to have never been made, but when Commodore liquidated their stock of hardware, they found some of these c65 systems ready for shipment.

The concept was great, but they have several inherent problems:

1. they are pal machines, meaning they are meant to work on European machines only, 2. There is no 3rd party support for them, meaning no software, 3. there is very little technical support, 4. there are no replacement parts. These are definite draw backs, but for the collector, a c65 is a rare find.

The Grapevine Group is selling them for approx \$130 or so. Thats the quote that is circulating, but who knows.

Well, guess thats all for now, hope to have some more News for you next month.

Jason Whitene
"Demonger" on the board



Jack Be Nimble, Jack Be QWK
How to Save Online Time by
Reading Messages Offline

Russell Alderson
Commodore User Group Of
Springfield (MO)
18 Aug 1993



Recently a number of Springfield area BBSes have begun to offer message areas that are part of huge networks like FidoNet, FamilyNet, and C-Link. In most cases, due to their large coverage--from southwest Missouri to worldwide--the "echoes," as these message areas are called, carry a tremendous volume of messages. The busiest echoes often get over 100 new messages per day! To handle all the incoming messages, many BBSes often delete messages while they are still "young" (seldom more than a week).

Keeping up with even one echo online can be a daunting task. With limited online time, it may take several calls to get through all the new messages. And you're tying up

the line all the while...definitely a minus for everyone getting busy signals on your account.

So what do you do? Give up on the echoes because they're too big? You don't have to. The secret is reading the messages offline! How to accomplish this? A crude way is to open up your buffer and select nonstop reading, log off, read what you've just captured, use a generic text editor or word processor to write your replies, then log back on and transmit the replies one at a time as "prepared messages." Not very pretty. Instead, do what I do...use an offline reader!

WHAT IS AN OFFLINE READER?

An offline reader is a program that lets you read and write echo messages offline in a convenient, friendly environment. The incoming messages are stored in a single file, and your outgoing messages are stored in another file. Then you can compress your message file with ordinary compression utilities (ARC, ZIP, LHA, LZH, etc.) before uploading it to the board like any other file.

HOW DO YOU USE THE OFFLINE READER?

Reading the messages offline takes several steps. They will vary depending on the BBS you call and the offline reader that you use. Here the QWK format will be discussed; there are other reader formats out there, but so far only QWK readers have been written for the Commodore 64 and 128.

1. CONFIGURE YOUR SETTINGS

You must let the BBS know where you want to look for messages, how you want them packed, and how to download the packet.

On most BBSes you have to enter a special program or "door" designed just for handling mail packets. Here you will find menu options for the configuration you want. When it asks for a mailpacket format, select QWK. When it asks for a compression

format, select ARC or ZIP. (Note that these are the MS-DOS style compression routines, not the CBM routines you may be familiar with.) I always choose ARC. You can also select the echoes you want to search; some let you choose between searching for any new messages and searching for new mail to you only. On Bill's BBS I have selected General Mail Folder, the CUGOS sub, 234 Local Echomail, 284 ForSale Echo, National Netmail, and the two Commodore echoes (CBM and CBM-128).

On Amiga C-Net, you select the end-of-line sequence and compression format in the [E]dit [P]references command. Here I select CR-only and ARC.

2. GET A MESSAGE PACKET ON THE BBS

On Amiga C-Net you use the [Y]ank command to tell the host to build a QWK packet. Syntax for Yank is the same as for Read; i.e. you can yank new mail in the current echo with YN, yank all new mail in the directory with YA, etc. Select QWK format. Then the host builds the packet in the background, leaving you free to do other things online (especially play Hack & Slash!). It will notify you when the packet is ready to download. Then just download it.

On most other BBSes you only have to select [D]ownload packet in the mail door menu. The host will then build the packet and tell you to start downloading.

3. LOG OFF THE BBS

After all, this is why it's called offline reading.

4. DECOMPRESS THE QWK PACKET

Now use your decompression utility. I use the CSXARC module in CS-DOS for the 128. If you don't like CS-DOS, then there is CSX01.SDA, which runs in both 64 and 128 modes. For ZIP lovers there is BVUNZIP for CS-DOS and ZIP101 [?] for 64 mode. Some offline readers have built-in compression and

decompression! But mine doesn't.

The decompressed QWK packet will contain a number of small files and probably one huge one. The huge one contains the text of all the messages in the packet. The small files are used by the reader for various things...keep them all!

5. RUN THE READER

If you haven't already loaded up your QWK reader to decompress your packet, load it now. I use QWKRR for the 128. C=64 users have QWKIE, and there's even CRR for CP/M.

Now you get to read the packet and write messages. Just follow the instructions for the program you're using, and follow the rules for the particular echoes you write to.

When you exit the reader, if you have written any messages there will be a file called "bbsname.msg" (in my case, "bill's.msg") on your disk. This is crucial when you...

6. COMPRESS YOUR REPLY PACKET

Use your compression utility to compress "bbsname.msg" all by itself. Out of habit, I just call the compressed file "reply.arc" because the filename doesn't matter when I upload with Xmodem. Some offline readers compress the reply packet for you!

7. UPLOAD THE REPLY PACKET

Now log onto the BBS where you downloaded the mail packet. (Other BBSes will probably reject your reply packet.) On Bill's and similar BBSes, reenter the mail door and select the option to upload a packet. On Amiga C-Net there should be a special U/D area for reply packets.

And there you have it. Now you can keep up with your favorite network echoes while spending a minimum of time (and money) online. That's why they call it QWK!

